

Home Ownership for America's Veterans Act of 2007 (H.R. 551)

- H.R. 551 would allow every state eligible veteran to use bond proceeds from Qualified Veterans Mortgage Bonds (QVMBs) for home loans for those who signed up for military duty after 1977.
- Currently, only those who entered the military prior to 1977 are eligible for QVMB financing.
- Because of the date-of-service restriction, only 4.1 percent of California's veterans are eligible for a home loan through QVMB in 2007 and drops to 3.4% in 2008. H.R. 551 would open the program up to thousands of veterans in California.
- The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CDVA) is in a difficult situation when it comes to its veterans' home loan program. California is home to 2.2 million veterans and has several of the most expensive real estate markets in the United States.
- The ability to provide newly discharged veterans with QVMB loans would give many veterans the opportunity to purchase a home.
- Up to 200,000 active duty service members maintain an address in California by serving at a base there or identifying it as their permanent address. Many of these service members have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan but do not have access to access to a QVMB home loan once they leave the service.
- H.R. 551 would ensure that those fighting in Iraq and Afghanistan will have a greater opportunity to purchase a home in one of California's high-cost real estate markets.
- In addition, the legislation indexes the bond limit for QVMBs to Freddie Mac's national housing index to ensure the federal home loan program remains viable and compatible in each state eligible.
- California, Texas, Wisconsin, Alaska, and Oregon are the five states that use QVMB financing for veterans' home loans. Currently, California and Texas are the only two states unable to use QVMB bond proceeds to finance veterans' home loans for all wartime veterans.